

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of modifying a jetted bath to accept a close fit heater device using a fitting and pipe section assembly adapted to be installed in a segment of tubing of the jetted bath, comprising:

(a) cutting a fitting and pipe section assembly along a first indicia disposed at a first end of a center segment of the fitting and pipe section assembly;

(b) removing the center segment from the fitting and pipe section assembly and defining a gap between a first end fitting and a second end fitting of the fitting and pipe section assembly;

(c) inserting a close fit heater device in the gap; and

(d) securing the close fit heater device in fluid communication with the first and second end fittings with a fastening assembly.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further including cutting the fitting and pipe section assembly along a second indicia disposed at a second end of the center segment of the fitting and pipe section assembly.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further including inserting the close fit heater device in the gap without substantially displacing the first and second end fittings.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising inserting a seal between the first end fitting and the close fit heater device when the close fit heater device is inserted within the gap to provide a fluid seal therebetween.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fastening assembly comprises a split nut and a nut cover.

6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 5, further comprising :

(a) sliding the nut cover over the first end fitting prior to inserting the close fit heater device in the gap;

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(b) securing the close fit heater device to the first end fitting with the split nut;
and

(c) positioning the nut cover to engage the split nut so as to retain a first portion and a second portion of the split nut together.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fastening assembly comprises a nut and a split retainer.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, further comprising:

(a) sliding the nut over an end of the close fit heater device prior to insertion of the close fit heater device in the gap; and

(b) securing a first portion and a second portion of the split retainer around the close fit heater device.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the split retainer retains the nut on the end of the close fit heater device when the nut couples the close fit heater device in fluid communication with the first end fitting.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first and second end fittings face one another to permit the coupling of the close fit heater device therebetween.

11. (Currently amended) A method of forming a fitting and pipe section assembly to permit mounting of a close fit heater device in fluid communication with a segment of tubing of a jetted bath, comprising:

(a) forming a first end fitting on a first end of a pipe section;

(b) forming a second end fitting on a second end of the pipe section wherein the first and second end fittings face one another;

(c) forming a first indicia between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide cutting of the pipe section; and

(d) forming a second indicia between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide the cutting of the pipe section.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising spacing the first and second indicia from the first and second end fittings respectively to form lips disposed between the first and second end fittings and the respective first and second indicia.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising forming a split nut for coupling the first end fitting to the close fit heater device once a center segment of the pipe section is removed and interchanged with the close fit heater device.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising forming a nut cover for encircling the split nut to retain a first portion of the split nut in engagement with a second portion of the split nut around the close fit heater device.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising forming a seal adaptable to be inserted between the first end fitting and the close fit heater device when a center segment of the pipe section is removed and interchanged with a close fit heater device.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising forming a nut and a split retainer, wherein the nut may be slipped over an end of the close fit device and retained on the end of the close fit device by engagement with the split retainer positioned to at least impartially encircle the close fit device.

18. (Original) A method of modifying a segment of tubing of a jetted bath to accept a close fit heater device, comprising:

- (a) forming a first end fitting on a first end of a pipe section;
- (b) forming a second end fitting on a second end of the pipe section;
- (c) coupling the first and second end fittings in fluid communication with a segment of tubing of a jetted bath;

(d) forming a first cutting guide between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide the post installation cutting and removal of a center segment of the pipe section; and

(e) forming a second cutting guide between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide the post installation cutting and removal of the center segment.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the first and second end fittings are each formed to include a fastener adaptable to couple to the close fit heater device.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising spacing the indicia from the first and second end fittings to form lips disposed between the first and second end fittings and the respective first and second cutting guides.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising forming a split nut for coupling the first end fitting to the close fit heater device once the center segment of the pipe section is removed and interchanged with the close fit heater device.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising forming a nut cover for encircling the split nut to retain a first portion of the split nut in engagement with a second portion of the split nut around the close fit heater device.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising forming a seal adaptable to be inserted between the first end fitting and the close fit heater device when the center segment of the pipe section is removed and interchanged with the close fit heater device.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising forming a nut and a split retainer, wherein the nut may be slipped over an end of the close fit device and retained on the end of the close fit device by engaging the split retainer positioned to at least impartially encircle the close fit device.

25. (New) A method of forming a fitting and pipe section assembly to permit mounting of a close fit heater device in fluid communication with a segment of tubing of a jetted bath, comprising:

- (a) forming a first end fitting on a first end of a pipe section;
- (b) forming a second end fitting on a second end of the pipe section wherein the first and second end fittings face one another;
- (c) forming a first indicia between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide cutting of the pipe section;
- (d) forming a second indicia between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide the cutting of the pipe section; and
- (e) spacing the first and second indicia from the first and second end fittings respectively to form lips disposed between the first and second end fittings and the respective first and second indicia.

26. (New) (Currently amended) A method of forming a fitting and pipe section assembly to permit mounting of a close fit heater device in fluid communication with a segment of tubing of a jetted bath, comprising:

- (a) forming a first end fitting on a first end of a pipe section;
- (b) forming a second end fitting on a second end of the pipe section wherein the first and second end fittings face one another;
- (c) forming a first indicia between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide cutting of the pipe section;
- (d) forming a second indicia between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide the cutting of the pipe section; and

(e) forming a split nut for coupling the first end fitting to the close fit heater device once a center segment of the pipe section is removed and interchanged with the close fit heater device.

27. (New) A method of forming a fitting and pipe section assembly to permit mounting of a close fit heater device in fluid communication with a segment of tubing of a jetted bath, comprising:

- (a) forming a first end fitting on a first end of a pipe section;
- (b) forming a second end fitting on a second end of the pipe section wherein the first and second end fittings face one another;
- (c) forming a first indicia between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide cutting of the pipe section;
- (d) forming a second indicia between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide the cutting of the pipe section; and
- (e) forming a seal adaptable to be inserted between the first end fitting and the close fit heater device when a center segment of the pipe section is removed and interchanged with a close fit heater device.

28. (New) A method of forming a fitting and pipe section assembly to permit mounting of a close fit heater device in fluid communication with a segment of tubing of a jetted bath, comprising:

- (a) forming a first end fitting on a first end of a pipe section;
- (b) forming a second end fitting on a second end of the pipe section wherein the first and second end fittings face one another;
- (c) forming a first indicia between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide cutting of the pipe section;

(d) forming a second indicia between the first end fitting and the second end fitting to guide the cutting of the pipe section; and

(e) forming a nut and a split retainer, wherein the nut may be slipped over an end of the close fit device and retained on the end of the close fit device by engagement with the split retainer positioned to at least impartially encircle the close fit device.